

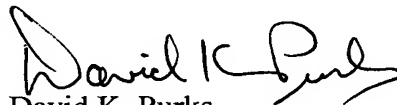
In re: Hickey et al.  
Application No.: 10/615,474  
Filed: July 7, 2003  
Page 6 of 6

### REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the thorough examination of the present application that is reflected in the Office Action, and further appreciate the statement that Claim 15 would be allowable if amended to independent form including recitation of the base claim and any intervening claims. To place the application in condition for immediate allowance, the claims have been amended as follows: Claim 15 has been amended to independent form to include recitations based on Claims 1 and 10 from which it previously depended; Claims 1, 4, 8, 10, 14, 17, and 18 have been canceled; and the remaining claims have been amended to depend from amended Claim 15. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the application is in condition for allowance, which is requested in due course.

If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (919) 854-1400.

Respectfully submitted,

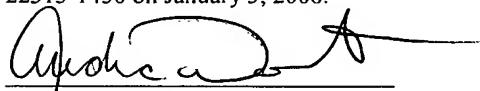


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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on January 5, 2006.

  
Audra Wooten